

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 14421 071823Z

66

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

/158 W

----- 066626

R 071815Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6241

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14421

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SF, UK, NI, OAU

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN REACTION TO SALE OF WASPS TO SOUTH
AFRICA

REF: LAGOS 9724

1. PETER FOSTER, HEAD CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN
DEPARTMENT, INFORMS US THAT FOREIGN OFFICE IS EXTREMELY
ANNOYED BY KEATLEY ARTICLE ON WASP HELICOPTERS TO SOUTH
AFRICA WHICH APPEARED IN NOVEMBER 29 "GUARDIAN."

2. CONTRARY TO WHAT KEATLEY IMPLIES, HMG NEVER INTENDED
TO LET WASP CONTRACT BECOME "DEAD LETTER" AND HAS FOL-
LOWED A CONSISTENT POLICY SINCE THE ISSUE FIRST AROSE.
FCO POINTS OUT THAT IN HIS STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT ON
FEBRUARY 22, 1971, FOREIGN SECRETARY SIR ALEC DOUGLAS-
HOME MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HMG WOULD HONOR THE
CONTRACT. STATEMENT FOLLOWED FINDING BY ATTORNEY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 14421 071823Z

GENERAL RAWLINSON THAT BRITAIN HAD LEGAL OBLIGATION TO

FURNISH HELICOPTERS UNDER EXISTING COMMITMENTS.

3. THREE OF TOTAL OF SEVEN WASPS INCLUDED IN CONTRACT WERE DELIVERED SOME TIME AGO, NOT RECENTLY AS IMPLIED IN KEATLEY ARTICLE. REMAINING FOUR HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND ARE NOW READY FOR DELIVERY AFTER SOME DELAYS IN ASSEMBLING. FCO CONSIDERS ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY DELAYED DELIVERY AS NEW TACK IN BRITISH POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA TO BE DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT BY "GUARDIAN" WHICH HAS STRONG LIBERAL PARTY BIAS.

ANNENBERG

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MILITARY SALES, HELICOPTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: mcintyresh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON14421
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731238/aaaabbyh.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LAGOS 9724
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: mcintyresh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <13-Sep-2001 by mcintyresh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGERIAN REACTION TO SALE OF WASPS TO SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, SF, UK, NI, OAU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005